

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
101 Callahan Drive  
Alexandria  
Independent City  
Virginia

HABS VA-1431

### INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Renee Bieretz, photographer, 2010

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|-----------|---|
| VA-1431-1 | Environmental view, looking northwest.  |
| VA-1431-2 | Environmental view, looking northwest. The stone wall along driveway is an original, Olmsted Brothers-designed feature. The massive Masonic “Emblem” of the square and compasses with an inset “G” is partially visible at center. It was dedicated in 1999 and oral tradition suggests that its scale was set by a desire for it to be seen from airplanes landing at nearby National Airport. |
| VA-1431-3 | Rear of the building, looking east. The curved extension of the podium contains the Memorial Theater.   |
| VA-1431-4 | View out from the portico, looking east on axis with King Street.   |
| VA-1431-5 | Entrance portico, looking west.   |
| VA-1431-6 | Detail view, corner of the base of the tower. The ashlar masonry walls of the base, which provides visual and structural transition between the podium and tower, is accented at the corners with lightly rusticated courses topped by plaques featuring swags and a rosette.   |

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| VA-1431-7  | Detail view, first-floor window on the east wall of the podium, to the immediate north of the portico. All of the first-floor windows in the podium are set off by identical tabernacle frames embellished with egg-and-dart and stylized acanthus motifs.  |
| VA-1431-8  | Detail view, acroterion at the southeast corner of the portico roof. A lightning rod extends upward at the back of the element.   |
| VA-1431-9  | Detail view, ground-floor entrance at the back of the building. The doors open onto a curved hallway running beneath the tiered seating in the semicircular theater.  |
| VA-1431-10 | General view, Memorial Hall, looking west toward the statue of George Washington. The seventeen-foot-high bronze statue by sculptor Bryan Baker was installed in 1950.  |
| VA-1431-11 | Main doorway, looking east out onto the entrance portico.   |
| VA-1431-12 | The Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 Replica Lodge Room, looking northeast. The room approximates the appearance of the lodge's 1802 room and contains many artifacts related to George Washington.   |
| VA-1431-13 | General view of the North Lodge Room, looking east toward the stage. Completed in 1949, the Gothic-style lodge room is one of two principal lodge rooms on the first floor. The South Lodge Room has roughly the same dimensions and finished with a neo-Federal interior.  |
| VA-1431-14 | General view, auditorium/theater, looking southeast. The auditorium, called "Memorial Theater," was the only major interior space finished at the time of the building's dedication in 1932.  |
| VA-1431-15 | Detail view, auditorium ceiling. Numerous Art Deco elements embellish the building's interior, but none so boldly as the large sunburst motif ceiling grille in the auditorium. This grille and the one in the wall above the proscenium allow the sound of the pipe organ, located in a room above the stage, to pass into the auditorium. |

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- VA-1431-16 Detail view, marble stair in rear lobby on the north side of the building. There are two lobbies at the rear of the building, one on the north and one on the south, positioned just outside the auditorium. The lobbies each feature a gracious marble stair, which descends to a lower lobby on the ground floor containing restrooms and access to other spaces on the floor.
- VA-1431-17 General view, Grand Masonic Hall, looking east. This major interior space is located at the center of the ground floor. The eight monolithic Doric columns of Conway green granite are structural and support the eight columns in Memorial Hall, directly above. The terrazzo floor and light fixtures are original to the finish of the room.
- VA-1431-18 General view, library, looking east. The library is located on the sixth floor in the middle stage of the setback tower. The tower, which can be accessed via elevators up from Memorial Hall or a spiral staircase, has seven principal levels, each of which is, more-or-less defined by a single major space. Each set-back stage of the tower is composed of a lighted, two-story space situated behind the piers and windows with a one-story, windowless mezzanine level below.
- VA-1431-19 General view, Royal Arch Chapter Room. This room is located on the mezzanine level (fifth floor) of the middle stage of the setback tower. The room features murals that unite Egyptian and Hebraic artistic traditions, illustrating the initiation ceremonies of the first body within the Masonic York Rite. The term “Royal Arch” refers to a legendary chamber built by Solomon below the Temple in Jerusalem. In the alcoves along the sides are collections of pennies from every local Royal Arch Chapter in America—some 7,000.

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- VA-1431-20                      Detail view, Royal Arch Chapter Room. The focus of the Royal Arch Chapter Room is a reproduction of the Ark of the Covenant set within an alcove. A mural by Allyn Cox depicting the ruins of King Solomon's Temple is positioned on the wall opposite the Ark. Allyn Cox (1896-1982) was an important twentieth-century American muralist. Most notably, he was hired to complete the frieze in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda started in the nineteenth century by Constantino Brumidi, and also painted murals elsewhere in that building and in Washington, including the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.
- VA-1431-21                      Detail view, the back of the apse in Memorial Hall containing the statue of George Washington. The building has a monolithic reinforced concrete structure with integrated granite cladding. Within the overall structure, interior partition walls are largely composed of hollow terracotta blocks, and, in some cases, brick. This image shows untrimmed lengths of rebar sticking out of the concrete and terracotta blocks laid up between a steel frame, which form the rear of the apse.
- VA-1431-22                      Passage along south exterior wall, looking east. This passage is located on the upper portion of the first-floor in the podium. The top of the window openings in the south wall are visible in the reinforced concrete on the right. The hollow terracotta block wall on the left is one of the partition walls for the South Lodge Room. The reinforced concrete beams in the ceiling are part of the structural system for the roof of the podium.
- VA-1431-23                      Detail view, reinforced concrete structure in the base of the tower. The base provides the visual and structural transition between the podium and the tower.

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Renee Bieretz, photographer, 2010

- VA-1431-24 (CT)                      Environmental view, looking northwest. Similar to VA-1431-2.
- VA-1431-25 (CT)                      General view, Grand Masonic Hall, looking east. Similar to VA-1431-17